

REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Monday, January 26, 2015.

Mayor Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Karen Ruff, Associate to the City Solicitor; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in memory of residents John Hayes, Betsy Hartman Tropp, Douglas Sutherland, Patricia Shawker and John Madigan, and former residents Winifred McNamara Greaney and Virginia Taylor Rexrode. He then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Pope that the consent agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

Minutes:

Regular Meeting, November 24, 2014

Work Session, January 14, 2015

Approved as Presented

Committee Reports:

Advisory Committee on Education, Report #2015-2 (Grant Program - 2014): Council accepted this report. No further action is required.

Reappointments to Advisory Groups: Council appointed the following individuals to new terms on City Advisory Boards and Committees:

Don Rich	Advisory Committee on Education
Keith Chernikoff	Advisory Planning Board
Jeff Lemieux	Advisory Planning Board
Jean Cook	Board of Elections
Judith Ott	Board of Elections
Matthew Inzeo	Public Safety Advisory Committee
Paula Luddy	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
David West	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Pope that the agenda be approved. The motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS: None

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Betty Edwards, 414 Ridge Road, petitioned Council to investigate an incident at the Animal Shelter. (Petition attached to minutes.)

Michael Hartman, 2-R Gardenway, reported that the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) had met recently and discussed his request for an Advisory Committee on Inclusion and Diversity. He said the request would be discussed further at a future CRAB meeting.

Tim Cohen-Mitchell, 2-J Westway, requested a review of the fingerprinting requirement for adult members of the Youth Advisory Committee.

## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Statement for the Record (Correction) – Executive Session of December 22, 2014: Ms. Davis moved that the minutes of tonight's meeting reflect that the Statement for the Record for the Executive Session held on Monday, December 22, 2014, and read into the minutes of the January 12, 2015, meeting, indicate the following:

Action Taken: Council referred a complaint regarding a personnel matter to the City Manager.

Vote on Action:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Davis	X			
Mr. Herling	X			
Ms. Mach	X			
Ms. Pope	X			
Mr. Putens		X		
Mr. Roberts	X			
Mayor Jordan	X			

Mr. Putens seconded.

ROLL CALL:	Ms. Davis	- Yes
	Mr. Herling	- Yes
	Ms. Mach	- Yes
	Ms. Pope	- Yes
	Mr. Putens	- Yes
	Mr. Roberts	- Yes
	Mayor Jordan	- Yes

Minutes – Executive Session of December 22, 2014: Ms. Davis moved that the minutes of the executive session of the City Council held Monday, December 22, 2014, be approved as presented. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(1) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland*, to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Herling seconded.

ROLL CALL:           Ms. Davis       - Yes  
                              Mr. Herling     - Yes  
                              Ms. Mach       - Yes  
                              Ms. Pope        - Yes  
                              Mr. Putens      - Yes  
                              Mr. Roberts     - Yes  
                              Mayor Jordan   - Yes

Statement for the Record – Executive Session of January 14, 2015: Ms. Davis moved that the minutes of tonight’s meeting reflect that Council met in executive session on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at 8:05 p.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. Council held this closed meeting in accordance with the General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(14) of the *Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland*, to discuss the Award of Contract for Theater Operation.

Vote to close session:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ms. Davis	X			
Mr. Herling	X			
Ms. Mach	X			
Ms. Pope	X			
Mr. Putens	X			
Mr. Roberts	X			
Mayor Jordan	X			

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David Moran, Assistant City Manager; Karen Ruff, Associate of the City Solicitor; and Beverly Palau, Public Information and Communications Coordinator.

Other individuals in attendance: None

Council took no actions during this session.

Ms. Pope seconded.

ROLL CALL:           Ms. Davis       - Yes  
                              Mr. Herling     - Yes  
                              Ms. Mach       - Yes

Ms. Pope - Yes  
Mr. Putens - Yes  
Mr. Roberts - Yes  
Mayor Jordan - Yes

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Ms. Pope asked when flashing lights for the Safe Routes to School project on Springhill Drive would be operational. Mr. McLaughlin said staff would check with Pepco.

In response to a question from Mayor Jordan, Mr. McLaughlin provided an update of Pepco's removal of double poles.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

LEGISLATION: None

PARTICIPATION IN BLADENSBURG MUNICIPAL COLLABORATION TO PROVIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES FOR LOW TO MODERATE HOMEOWNERS: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Bladensburg Police Lieutenant James Flynn said the Town of Bladensburg is coordinating a weatherization and energy efficiency upgrade program for low to moderate income homeowners called the Prince George's County Municipal Collaboration. He said currently nineteen municipalities are participating in the program.

Mayor Jordan asked about funding for the program. Lt. Flynn said he expects approximately \$600,000 in program funding this year through the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) EmPOWER and Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) Community Legacy grants. He said since the funds are limited, not all approved applicants receive assistance. Lt. Flynn added that the program gives preference to veterans and senior citizens but helps all individuals in need. Ms. Davis suggested Lt. Flynn and Ms. Robles coordinate the City's participation in the program with Christal Batey, the City's Community Resource Advocate.

Lt. Flynn and Luisa Robles, the City's Sustainability Coordinator, explained that eligible homeowners complete an application/affidavit of income and sign a consent form and submit both to the Town of Bladensburg. If they are found to meet the income and grant qualifications, Bladensburg notifies Edge Energy in Beltsville to conduct the energy audit. Any needed improvements such as added insulation, air sealing, new hot water heater or refrigerator, HVAC adjustments, etc. are identified and are sent to MEA for approval. If the recommendations are approved by MEA, Edge Energy performs the improvements.

Lt. Flynn explained that owners of single family homes and two or more story townhomes/row homes are eligible for the program but owners of condominium units are not eligible. Luisa Robles said Greenbelt Homes, Inc. units will qualify.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council authorize participation in the Prince George's County Municipal Collaboration to Provide Energy Efficiency Upgrades for Low to Moderate Income Homeowners. Mr. Putens seconded.

Lore Rosenthal, 2-R Gardenway, asked about the selection of Edge Energy as the vendor. Lt. Flynn explained that the Town of Bladensburg had gone through their standard bid process and identified Edge Energy as the best vendor. He added that Edge Energy is certified by MEA. Mayor Jordan asked if Edge Energy pays their employees a living wage. Lt. Flynn said their employees receive about 20 percent above the living wage. He added that Edge Energy is a Prince George's County based company and most of its employees are County residents.

The motion passed 7-0.

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION – EAST PEARL: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Wenting Jiang, President/Manager Member of Goodies Food, LLC, said she hoped the East Pearl, located at 7701 Greenbelt Road #101, would open for business in late February.

Mr. Roberts moved that take that Council take “no position” on the application for a Class B (BLX), Beer, Wine and Liquor License for the use of Goodies Food, LLC, t/a East Pearl, 7701 Greenbelt Road #101. Mr. Putens seconded.

Council wished Ms. Jiang well and requested that they be notified when the restaurant is opened.

The motion passed 7-0.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, REPORT #2015-1 (GRANT PROPOSALS – 2015): Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Jon Gardner, member of the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE), reported that ACE had solicited grant proposals for up to \$500 each from the seven ACE core schools: Greenbelt Elementary, Springhill Lake Elementary, Magnolia Elementary, Robert Goddard French Immersion School, Turning Point Academy, Greenbelt Middle School and Eleanor Roosevelt High School. He said after a review of the 33 proposals from six schools totaling \$15,992, ACE is recommending 20 grant proposals totaling \$9,634 be approved for funding. Mr. Gardner advised the FY 2015 Budget includes \$9,500 for the ACE Grants to Educators program and ACE proposes to redirect \$134 into the grants program from other funds within the ACE budget.

Ms. Mach moved that Council approve the distribution of the 2015 ACE Grant Awards totaling \$9,634 as recommended by ACE in their Report #2015-1. Mr. Putens seconded.

Ms. Davis and Mr. Putens complimented ACE on their work on the Grant Awards and the equity of distribution of the funds between the schools. Ms. Davis expressed concern that funding for some of the grant proposals (art supplies, computer lab headphones, storage stands, instrument

cases to replace moldy cases, new microphone) should have been funded through Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). Mr. Putens agreed. Ms. Davis and Ms. Mach suggested this concern be addressed with School Board Representative Lupi Grady.

In response to a question from Ms. Pope, Mr. Gardner explained the process used by ACE to determine how proposals are scored, ranked and selected.

Ms. Rosenthal, 2-R Gardenway, suggested that ACE balance all parts of school curriculum and consider science on the same level with arts, music and reading programs. Mr. Gardner mentioned the ACE Science Club which was offered at Magnolia Elementary School.

The motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Davis moved that Council send a letter to School Board Representative Lupi Grady expressing concern that some items (art supplies, computer lab headphones, storage stands, instrument cases to replace moldy cases, new microphone) funded through the ACE Grant Awards should have been funded by PGCPS. Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

AWARD OF CONTRACT – GREENBELT THEATER OPERATION: Mayor Jordan read the agenda comments.

Mayor Jordan asked what steps will be taken after Council selects an operator for the Theater. Mr. McLaughlin said staff will begin contract negotiations with the operator. He said the contract and a Resolution for Negotiated Purchase would return to Council at a February meeting for approval.

Mr. Putens complimented all members of Council for their thorough review of the proposals received from P & G Theaters, Greenbelt Cinema and Friends of Greenbelt Theater (FOGT). He noted that Council held a work session to review the theater proposals on December 15, 2014, and a public hearing on January 7, 2015.

Ms. Pope stressed the importance of selecting the operator for the Theater, which is vital to the entire community.

Mr. Roberts said he was not comfortable making a decision on the selection of a Theater operator before the proposed contract is seen by Council and a decision has been made on the amount of funding. Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis noted the need for Council to select an operator so the City Manager can begin negotiating a contract with the operator.

Ms. Davis moved that Council approve Friends of Greenbelt Theater as the operator for Greenbelt Theater and directed staff to begin contract negotiations with FOGT. Mr. Putens seconded.

Ms. Davis, Ms. Mach and Mr. Herling thanked P & G Theaters and Greenbelt Cinema for submitting their proposals for operation of the Theater and for their participation throughout the entire process. They said the proposals submitted by all three groups were good, but the FOGT

proposal better fit Council's vision for operation of the theater and for the future of Roosevelt Center. Mayor Jordan agreed, and said he wished there had been a way to combine the strengths of all three proposals.

Mr. Putens said he wanted the Theater to be a "living theater" and the FOGT proposal best fit that vision.

Mr. Roberts said he wants the theater to be sustainable where taxpayers don't have an open ended obligation to fund the theater well into the future.

Mayor Jordan suggested a short term, perhaps tiered contract, which comes back to Council for review in one year. Ms. Pope commented that discussion of the operating contract would be included on a future Council agenda. She also suggested the contract be reviewed after one year.

Ms. Davis expressed appreciation to Mr. Sanchez for operating the Theater for many years. She said she hoped he would act as an advisor/consultant in the future.

Melissa Ehrenreich, 23-D Ridge Road, expressed her support for FOGT. She said that anything less than a three year contract would create a burden on a non-profit and their ability to raise grant funding.

Phillip Payette, 11-E Ridge Road, noted his experience with non-profit groups and said they are often bogged down in their decision making process. He said a simpler way to conduct business is to deal with one or two individuals with decision making power.

Tim Cohen-Mitchell, 2-J Westway, encouraged FOGT to be as open and transparent as possible in its operation of the Theater.

David Lange expressed his support of Council's decision. He suggested a three year contract that includes measures that are specific and achievable.

Susan Stewart, Plateau Place, expressed her support of Council's decision.

Mr. Putens called the question.

The motion passed 7-0.

Caitlin McGrath thanked Council for the opportunity for FOGT to operate the Theater. She also thanked Mr. Sanchez of P & G Theaters and Mr. Finchham of Greenbelt Cinema.

Ms. Davis expressed her support for a three year operating contract with an annual review that included: 1) quarterly financial reports be provided to the City; 2) quarterly reports on community group usage be provided to the City; and 3) the cost of rent, if any, for City programs.

After further discussion, members of Council agreed to send any details they wished to be included in the operating contract to Mr. McLaughlin.

Lore Rosenthal, 2-R Gardenway, encouraged Council to consider a generous contract to FOGT as a good faith effort towards the success of the Theater.

Michael Hartman, 2-R Gardenway, expressed his support of Council's decision.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Councilmembers commented on their attendance at the following events.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Transportation Planning Board Meeting - Mr. Roberts

Maryland Municipal League (MML) Legislative Committee Meeting – Ms. Davis

MML Legislative Reception – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis and Mr. Herling

COG Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Meeting – Ms. Davis

Celebratory Mass for former City Councilmember Elizabeth Maffay – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis, Mr. Putens and Mr. Herling

Senator Jim Rosapepe's Brunch – Mayor Jordan and Ms. Davis

10<sup>th</sup> Annual District 22 Annapolis Reception – Mayor Jordan, Ms. Davis and Mr. Herling

COG Board of Directors Meeting – Mayor Jordan

COG Region Forward Coalition Meeting – Mayor Jordan

City of College Park Martin Luther King Day Program – Mayor Jordan

Bike Infrastructure Meeting – Mayor Jordan

Public Works and CHEARS Partnership Work Day – Mayor Jordan

MML Board of Directors Meeting – Mayor Jordan

Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Board Meeting – Mayor Jordan, Mr. Putens, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Herling

Councilmembers noted their appointments to the following National League of Cities Committees.

Ms. Davis - Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Mayor Jordan - Community & Economic Development Committee

Ms. Mach - Human Development Committee

Mr. Herling - Transportation & Infrastructure Services Committee

Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope - Small Cities Steering Committee

Mr. Putens and Ms. Pope – Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

2015 Meeting Schedule: Ms. Davis moved the following changes to Council's 2015 meeting schedule:

- No work session on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> (Easter Monday)
- Reschedule Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting to Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> (Rosh Hashanah)
- Reschedule October Regular Meetings of October 12<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup> to October 5<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup> (MML Fall Conference October 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>)



Mr. Herling seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Mach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Jordan adjourned the regular meeting of Monday, January 26, 2015, at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Murray  
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held January 26, 2015."

Emmett V. Jordan  
Mayor